



March 2, 2015

Weekly Report

A Highlight of Departmental Activities

The Weekly Report showcases the activities and accomplishments of the many Departments within Rutherford County Government. Click on the directory lists, headings and text in blue to be linked to more information.

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Agriculture/Cooperative Ext.

Family and Consumer Sciences:

- Taught Kids & Money workshop to parents of HeadStart students
- Conducted monthly radio program on WCAB and WGTN
- Trained facilitators for Latino nutrition program
- Prepared upcoming educational programs

Airport

The Rutherford County Airport sold 249 gallons of 100LL and 951 gallons of Jet A fuel. Director and staff also participated in the monthly airport authority meeting and various conference calls regarding the hazardous weather situations last week.

Board of Elections

The elections office has been busy completing an extensive survey on previous election costs. Staff has started the process of setting up contest information to prepare for the upcoming Municipal Elections this year. Staff is reviewing street lists in the county's database with addresses of registered voters to make any corrections or add any new streets to the elections office database.

Building Inspections

Building Inspections has issued 56 permits since the last report with three of those being new houses (total valuations on those are just over \$400,000) and one being a duplex unit. We have had a busy 2-3 weeks in commercial plan review. We have just approved the plans for the Lake Lure Classical Academy and are awaiting permit issuance; we are still talking with the engineer over the 10,000 SF solidification facility going on NC 120; a local church is in very early stages of plan review for their new fellowship hall; and finally, we are talking with the engineer over the new Dollar General going on 221 S. Jason is at Southern Pines this week in Continuing Ed classes. We continue to inspect at Tryon Equestrian Center in Polk County. In fact, one of our inspectors, Clint Houser, is leaving the department headed to Polk County's Inspection Department with Friday being Clint's last day here. We wish him well and are taking applications for his Fire Inspector position.

Clerk to the Board

This week has been very exciting for the County Commissioners. On Monday, a Special Meeting was held. At this meeting, the Board made a decision to appoint Mr. Steve Garrison as Rutherford County Manager. Mr. Garrison will be assuming his duties on March 16. A reception was held following the announcement and department heads were introduced to Mr. Garrison and his family.

Commissioners had several individual meetings and conference calls during the week as they worked around the weather hurdles.

The agenda for both the regular meeting and special meeting for March 2 were prepared and posted this week.

County Manager

The Interim County Manager's week included yet another bout of inclement weather, which triggered several conference calls, decisions, schedule changes and additional responsibilities. Performance evaluations, departmental meetings, discussions and conference calls were just a start to the busy week. The week continued with additional duties, including several luncheons, interoffice meetings, public relations, advising, preparation for various responsibilities and meeting with citizens. Midweek, the county offices were closed due to inclement weather, but many continued to work, and a special thanks to all who closely monitored the weather conditions and contributed to making public safety first priority.

As most of you know, Carl Classen is retiring as County Manager after several years of dedicated and committed service, during which time he has proved to be an irreplaceable asset to our county. He will serve as Interim County Manager for several weeks until the newly elected manager, Steve Garrison, begins work on March 16, 2015.

Steve Garrison is a lifelong western North Carolina resident with a solid background in various functions of county government. Steve is a graduate of Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College and Mars Hill University where he majored in Sociology and Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement Technology. He has served on numerous local and State boards and committees during his career. He is the husband of Tonya Garrison and the proud father of Savannah, Cameron, Lauren and Emily Garrison.



"I am looking forward to joining the team to help Rutherford County continuously move forward," noted Mr. Garrison. "The Board of Commissioners is a great team, and I hope that the County staff and I can help the Board meet their goals to better serve the citizens, guests and businesses of Rutherford County. My family and I are excited about coming to Rutherford County."

Economic Development

This week, the Economic Development Department continued work on the 2014 Annual Report, researched information for an industrial prospect proposal, and conducted an industrial prospect site visit. The department continues to be busy following up on multiple industrial recruitment activities, and reaching out to industry representatives to meet grant reporting deadlines.

Finance

The Director attended several interdepartmental meetings. Budget packages have been distributed to the departments and are due back to the Finance Office by March 9th. The Finance Office has processed accounts payable this week.

Fire Marshal/Emergency Management

Fire Marshal and staff:

- Continued to monitor weather conditions and work through extreme cold weather.
- Worked on information for upcoming public hearing.
- Received an emergency portable shelter and HVAC unit for use in emergency situations. This was paid for by a homeland security grant.



Human Resources

The HR Director held meetings to discuss personnel issues, exit interviews, and retirements. The Director, along with Randy Patterson, conducted interviews for the part-time Airport Tech position. Interviews, along with Kerry Giles, will be held for the Billing Specialist later in the week. The Director attended a Special Board meeting and reception as the County named the new County Manager. We extend a great welcome to Mr. Steven Garrison. Mr. Garrison will begin employment with Rutherford County on March 16, 2015. The HR Specialist attended a webinar on Financial Fitness. Current vacancies are Economic Development Specialist, Billing Specialist, and Code Inspector. Apply at Rutherfordcountync.gov or 289 North Main Street. Please be watching for email blasts for **Relay for Life**. The team is geared up and doing a great job.



If weather permitting.....

Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews down the street to Kidz Play on Saturday February 28, 2015 from 2 - 4 p.m. During this time, Kidz Play will donate a percentage of their sales to Relay for Life Rutherford County employees. Thank you for your support.

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Please come out to Zaxbys next Tuesday, March 3rd! Zaxbys will give 10% of sales from 5 - 8 pm to our Relay for Life Team.



Information Technology

This week has been very busy trying to keep up with weather issues. Sixty Track-It orders have been closed. We performed a test on the generator for the annex building in the event of power outage from the snow. Remember to continue to use Trackit...and the most effective way is email trackit@rutherfordcountync.gov.

Congratulations, Rhonda Owens, IT Director, on your upcoming retirement! (Pictured signing retirement papers.)

You have been a great asset to the county and we will miss you very much. We appreciate your commitment to excellence, as well as your loyalty and willingness to often go beyond your normal duties. Retirement will be an adjustment, but also an opportunity!



Library

Library Director:

April finished working on a *Planning* grant application for the State Library and has gotten back to working on the library budget for Finance. April spoke with other library directors in WNC about utilizing part-time staff to augment Children's services full-time staff and the success of rotating staff among all library branches. In addition, the staff at the County Library had a productive staff meeting on Tuesday focusing on outreach and training.

Circulation Manager:

Stephanie Long participated in a Quick & LIVE-ly Webinar about the Gale Literature Resource Center on NCLive. This webinar provided an overview of the Literature Resource Center (LRC) that is available for free to library patrons through NCLive.org. The LRC provides biographical information, overviews of literary works, and full-text literary criticisms and reviews of more than 130,000 authors.

Stephanie finalized plans for the upcoming Civil War program to be held on March 21st. This program is made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Library of America, and The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Stay tuned for more details.

Stephanie Long met with Senior Center Director Angela Ezell to discuss the possibility of donating books to the Senior Center library.

A 2014 reproducible federal tax form book is now available behind the front desk at the Rutherford County Library. This book contains Schedules A, B, C, EIC, F, R, SE, & 8812, and Forms 1040NR, 1040-V, 2441, 3903, 4506-T, 4684, 4868, 8822, 8829, 8863, 8949, 8962, 8965, 9465, as well as instructions for these forms. Copies of these forms can be made for patrons at a charge of 15 cents each if they would rather do that than print off of the internet. Forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ are still available for patrons to pick up for free in the lobby.

IT Librarian:

Planning has started for a series of new technology classes to be held at the County Library beginning in late March/early April. Potential topics include basic computer use, online privacy, online safety for kids, basic email skills, etc. We are open to input for other topics that may be of interest to the general public. Please let Kenneth know if you have any recommendations/ideas.

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A big THANK YOU to Maintenance for moving bookshelves, Kenneth's desk, and Lois' desk last week! Being in a warmer room was definitely much appreciated when the cold snap hit last week. The furniture move also created some much needed space for a multipurpose room that will be used for the library's book sales and other activities. The library has applied for E-rate funding for next budget year. This will allow us to drastically increase the speed of the public Internet connections at all three libraries while reducing the overall cost of this service by as much as 90%.

Haynes Branch:

Haynes processed book donations. Deb and Crystal participated in online continuing education seminars on E-books and Genealogy Archives, tips & tools.



Too cold to play outside, but plenty of fun inside at the library! Legos are always a great way to use our imaginations.

Mountains Branch:

The Mountains Branch Book Club met Monday morning to discuss their February selection, ***Somewhere Safe with Someone Good*** by Jan Karon. Branch Librarian, Joy Sharp, assisted a local home school family looking for assessment testing information and materials. She also reached out to the area home school organization to offer the library's help and resources for families who choose to home school. Joy also looked at graphic novel selections to purchase to expand the library's juvenile and Young Adult graphic novel collection. Mountains Branch also received a very large box of donations this week, which Angie and Joy separated into book sale items and library collection additions.

Revenue Department

The Revenue Department completed 5143 May motor vehicle renewals and handled 59 VTS assists. The office answered 595 phone calls and assisted 246 customers. We completed 3 plat reviews, 26 pre-permits and answered 5 Data Requests. Appraisers completed 378 field reviews. A total of 45 new documents were recorded. Transfers consisted of 43 straits, 20 new accounts, and 4 splits. GIS created 8 new maps. The GIS website had 165,538 hits and 120,093 successful searches. E911 addressing assigned 4 new addresses and updated 52 addresses with new owner information. 1 appeal and 13 listing forms were received and 14 letters were mailed back out. The PUV program assisted 5 program members. Staff processed 1 exclusions/deferments and 2 discoveries.

Social Services

With time off last week for snow, there are no major activities to report for DSS. Many of the regular state-wide conference calls and meetings were postponed due to the weather. However, work continues toward the implementation of the Northwood Case Management System for social work services. Northwood staff and staff from Alamance County DSS were at the agency last week, and again this week, working with staff and providing training and technical assistance. The next phase of implementation will be training and deployment of iPads that workers will use in the field to complete paperwork that will be entered directly into the document management system. All major training will conclude on March 11, and Northwoods' staff will be in the office until March 27th to offer support. Income Maintenance management continues to be proactive during the implementation of Medicaid into the NC FAST System, and are working hard to meet their March 31 deadlines. This will prove to be a daunting task that will require much hard work, including overtime for staff. Shout out to all of our Income Maintenance staff that continue to work so hard to ensure that the citizens of Rutherford County receive all of the benefits that they need and for which they are entitled.

Senior Center

The Senior Center and the satellite sites were closed this week on Tuesday and Thursday due to inclement weather. There were no meal deliveries to homes on Tuesday. We delivered two pre-packaged meals on Wednesday in addition to the regular meal to be used during inclement weather on Thursday and Friday. Dr. Kersey, with Asheville Cardiology, came on Wednesday and spoke about “Heart Health” in recognition of National Heart Health Month. Lastly, tax preparation continues to be provided at the Center by the AARP Foundation Tax Aide Program. This is a free tax preparation service for low to moderate income individuals, with special attention to those 60 and over. The trained volunteers will be available, by appointment only, on Thursdays and Fridays, through April 10th.

Upcoming:

Registration for the 2015 Senior Games will be held from February 23-March 6. The Rutherford County Senior Games promote health and wellness activities through athletic and artistic endeavors for Rutherford County citizens age **50** and better. Seniors compete for awards in their own gender/age category. Cost is \$12 and \$10 for a first-time participant. Registration cost includes a t-shirt and covers all the events in all categories of Senior Games. The dates of the events are as follows:

SilverArts	March 16-20
Performing Arts	March 27
Sporting Events	April 2-17

2nd Annual Parade of Tables Fundraiser rescheduled from February 20th to February 27th at 6:00 p.m. due to weather conditions.



Sheriff's Department

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office honored Lt. Greg Cochran with a reception to acknowledge his retirement. Lt. Cochran has worked as jail administrator of the Rutherford County Detention for the past three years.



Sheriff Chris Francis presented Lt. Cochran with a plaque, and thanked Lt. Cochran for his dedicated service to the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, the Detention Center and the citizens of Rutherford County.

Lt. Cochran has over 30 years experience in law enforcement, having previously worked with Transylvania and Henderson Counties.

Congratulations, Lt. Cochran, and a sincere thank you for your dedicated service!

Soil & Water

The Admin/Education Specialist worked on Watershed maintenance information and sending District Meeting notices. Also, worked on Enviroscape lesson and registration for High School Envirothon.

The Ag. Cost Share Technician worked on watershed emergency action plan planning and worked on planning for two farms.

Solid Waste

The solid waste department stats for this week:

- Served 253 customers
- Hauled 52 loads from convenience centers
- Shipped 30 loads to Lenoir
- Shipped 2 recycling trailers
- 19 tire customers

The Solid Waste staff has been busy catching up from last week's icy weather. The office staff has been busy working/preparing the next recycling grant. The grant will be submitted this week with an anticipated approval date of June. The director attended the welcome reception for the new county manager. Also, the director attended the performance review session with Carl. Gas well monitoring had to be rescheduled due to the weather. The director also participated in the conference calls for inclement weather. Work on the Edwards house at the airport has been interrupted due to extreme wet conditions. The Solid Waste Department sent out a request for proposals to remove +/- 15 trees from the airport property. The director visited the old bank in Caroleen to see about the possible demolition of the structure and removal of the asphalt. The shop employees have been busy servicing equipment this week.

Solid Waste Code Enforcement Officer report is as follows:

- Active cases: 10
- Closed cases: 3
- Cameras installed: 1
- Community service workers: 6
- Community service reports: 1

Please continue to recycle!



Transportation Services

Emergency Medical Services:

EMS continues to work through billing company issues in order to best project revenues for the remaining months of the fiscal year. EMS also transferred dispatching of non-emergency transports to Transit's dispatcher starting this week. There are still some technology issues to work through, but so far both departments are working well together. EMS has been prepared and ready to respond during the multiple weather issues this past week.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Emergency Calls	159	168
Convalescent Calls	65	47

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Transit Department:

Transit's numbers below are from Wednesday-Tuesday each week. Transit was closed on Wednesday during this past week for snow, plus out of county trips were cancelled on two other days due to weather issues. Even though revenue is down due to the closures, expenditures will also be down by not running operations. Director also completed the FY 15-16 Budget Request packet for Transit.

TYPE	CURRENT WEEK	WEEKLY AVG
Total Miles	6,276	9,566
# of Local Trips	763	881
# of Out of County Trips	24	66
# Unduplicated Passengers	191	238
Total Revenue	\$7,480	\$14,549

Veterans Services

Mail In	28
Fax	55
Mail Out	20
Phone Calls In/Out	84
Veteran Contacts	155

County Commissioners

Bryan King, Chairman **Michael Benfield**
Alan Toney, Vice Chairman **Eddie Holland**

Carl Classen, County Manager
Hazel S. Haynes, Clerk to the Board

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